

Message Text

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71

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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INFO USDOC WASHDC

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UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 1133

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SUBJ: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - MINISTER OF HEALTH VISITS US FOR
BRIEFINGS ON SAFEGUARDS

REF: LUXEMBOURG A-11

1. ON A TRIP ORGANIZED BY THE US FIRM BABCOCK-WILCOX AND ITS
GERMAN SUBSIDIARY, GOL MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMILE KRIEPS
VISITED THE US FROM NOV. 13-21 TO TOUR TWO NUCLEAR POWER
STATIONS AND BABCOCK-WILCOX MANUFACTURING AND RESEARCH FACI-
LITIES. THE MINISTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO LEADING PUBLIC
HEALTH OFFICIALS, DR. PAUL KAYSER, EXPERT EN RADIOPROTECTION
AND MR. JOSY BARTHEL, COMMISSAIRE A LA PROTECTION DES EAUX
(COMMISSIONER FOR WATER PROTECTION).

2. THE GERMAN SUBSIDIARY OF BABCOCK-WILCOX (60 PERCENT US-
OWNED), MANNHEIM, HAS THE CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES
FOR THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PLANNED FOR REMERSCHEN, LUXEMBOURG,
THE FIRST SUCH INSTALLATION IN THE GRAND DUCHY, FOR THIS
PROJECT GOL HAS FORMED A PARTNERSHIP WITH RWE, A MAJOR
GERMAN UTILITY GROUP. BROWN-BOVERI (GERMANY) IS PROVIDING
THE ELECTRICAL WORK.

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3. THE NUCLEAR PLANT PROJECT COMES UP FOR PARLIAMENTARY

APPROVAL THIS SESSION. THE TRIP WAS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO GIVE THE MINISTER AND PRINCIPAL HEALTH OFFICIALS SUFFICIENT FAMILIARITY AND CONFIDENCE TO COUNTER OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF SAFEGUARDS.

4. THE US ITINERARY BEGAN IN SAN FRANCISCO WITH A VISIT TO NEARBY RANCHO SECO NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND THEN TO HARRISBURG, PA. TO TOUR THE THREE MILE ISLAND CENTER'S TWO REACTORS. BOTH OF THESE WERE BABCOCK-WILCOX PROJECTS. THE GROUP THEN VISITED LYNCHBURG, VA., WHERE BABCOCK-WILCOX PRODUCES ENRICHED URANIUM NUCLEAR FUEL, AND EVANSVILLE, ILL., FOR BABCOCK-WILCOX PRESSURE CHAMBERS. THE VISITORS ALSO ATTENDED A MEETING IN WASHINGTON SPONSORED BY BABCOCK-WILCOX FOR US MANUFACTURERS IN THE NUCLEAR POWER FIELD AND THE WEST GERMAN TUV (TECHNISHER UBERWACHUNG VEREIN) REGARDING GERMAN STANDARDS.

5. COMMENT: MINISTER KRIEPS AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY THE VISITS AND TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS THEY RECEIVED FROM BABCOCK-WILCOX. THE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, CANDOR AND CONFIDENCE OF THE US HOSTS SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO GOL IN CONVINCING PARLIAMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE SAFETY MEASURES AS WELL AS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT. AMERICAN HOSPITALITY EN ROUTE ALSO MADE AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION. PHILLIPS

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